

Meteor



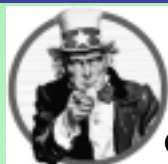
Heraut

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Around USAG Benelux

USAG Benelux



Call to Duty

Boots on the Ground
The 231st U.S. Army Birthday Ball is set for June 24, at the SHAPE Club. A reception will kickoff the gala at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. Soldiers of all ranks, retirees, Department of the Army Civilian employees, their family members and guests are invited to attend. Daycare service will be available at the SHAPE Child Development Center. For more information, contact your unit first sergeant or call DSN: 360-7533.

Eagle Scouts invited

The U.S. Ambassador to Belgium, is inviting all Eagle Scouts, both youth and adult, and their guests living in Charlemagne Boy Scout District for a reception at his home May 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. to honor all youth Eagles.

For more information, please call 361-5762 or email shapeav8r@earthlink.net.

Summer-Hire program vacancies

The Civilian Human Resources Agency, Europe is accepting applications for the 2006 Summer Hire program for jobs starting June 26 through Aug. 4.

Vacancies, a web-based application form, and instructions are available at www.chra.eur.army.mil through May 12, or send via email to Summerhire_Resumes@cpoecur.army.mil or mail to: CHRA, CPOC Europe Region ATTN: Summer Hire Program Unit 29150, APO, AE 09100.

Requirements: Summer Hire is open to family members between the ages of 14 and 22 years old.

❑ Participants must be unmarried family members of active military or Department of Defense civilian employees. Summer hires for child development positions must be 16 years old.

Entertainment Center tops at Toppers

HEIDELBERG, Germany - SHAPE Entertainment Center won 15 TOPPERS at the annual Tournament of Plays (TOPPERS) ceremony April 22 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg, Germany.

Theater programs from Army and Air Force bases in Europe, England and Turkey were represented with productions of five dramas, 10 comedies and eight musicals.

The Entertainment Center presented two productions in this seasons competition, Neil Simons' "The Good Doctor" and Flaherty and Ahrens' "Suessical, The Musical." The two productions garnered 11 technical and four acting awards.

In all, "Suessical, The Musical" received eight Toppers from 19 nominations and "The Good Doctor" won seven Toppers from 11 nominations. Collectively, the two productions received 23 of the 26 technical nominations and 20 nominations in the 25 performance categories.

Technical Awards

Best Make-up for a Musical

Annie Descamps, Marion Burger, Cindy Hemberg, Michele Rumbaugh "Suessical"

Best Hair and Wig Design

Gwen Whitney, Grace Cesonis "The Good Doctor"



Grace Cesonis received Toppers awards for Best Hair and Wig Design and Best Costume Design for a Drama in support of the play "The Good Doctor" April 22 in Heidelberg, Germany. The SHAPE Entertainment Center received a total of 11 technical awards and four performance awards.

Best Costume Design for a Drama

Grace Cesonis "The Good Doctor"

Best Costume Design for a Musical

Tracy Kaster, Janet Austin, Christa Lippert, Linda Morse "Suessical"

Best Lighting Design for a Musical

Dan LaMorte, Olivier Galloo, Juliana Veit "Suessical"

Best House Management

SHAPE Entertainment Center

Best Stage Properties for a Drama

Juliana Veit "The Good Doctor"

Best Scene Painting

Thomas Reich "Suessical"

Best Stage Manager for a Musical

Gwendolyn Whitney "Suessical"

Best Technical Director of a Play

Sgt. Maj. Robert Bürger, Thomas Reich "The Good Doctor"

Special Awards

Staff Sgt. Patrick D. Gray, Outstanding Conductor "Suessical"

Performance Awards

Best Military Performance in a Play

Corporal Peter Hofmann (multiple) "The Good Doctor"

Best Ensemble for a Drama

"The Good Doctor"

Best Actor in a Drama

Staff Sgt. Ronny Cunath, "The Good Doctor"

Best Actor in a Musical

Lt. Col. Joe B. Houser, "Suessical"

International driver's licenses may help avoid headaches, fines

By J.D. Hardesty

Meteor-Heraut Editor

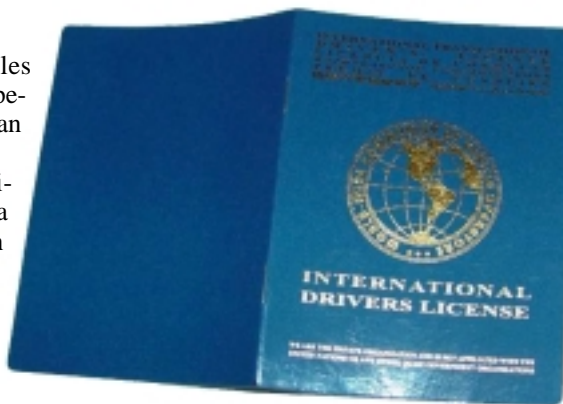
Americans driving their vehicles across Europe can avoid woeful experiences or large fines by getting an international drivers license.

Drivers with SHAPE issued licenses are restricted to operating a SHAPE registered vehicle only in Belgium.

Soldiers assigned to SHAPE driving outside of Belgium must possess an international driver's license.

Department of Defense civilians and family members are allowed to drive outside Belgium on their stateside license on a country by country basis.

This summer, with increased security during the World Cup soccer championships in Germany, an international driver's license is a must-have in travelers' wallets, said U.S. Army,



Europe vehicle registrar Tom Lorenzini. USAREUR officials recommend all U.S. forces, civilians and family members who drive outside their host country acquire an international driving license.

"The expected additional border checks will raise your chances of getting fined if you are driving without it," he said. "International licenses are required in Austria, Greece, Spain, Turkey and all Middle Eastern countries."

If civilian or family-member drivers do not have a valid stateside

license, they are required by to have an international driver's license or a Belgian driver's license to legally travel outside their host country.

"We recommend DoD civilians and family members obtain

See License, Page 3



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
USAG Benelux Commander

We've entered the season of transition, and there are a couple of themes that are worth keeping in mind. They are force protection and physical security/crime prevention. This note is designed to bring you up to date on the issues.

As you in and out process, and

Nowowiejski Notes

sponsor the new members of our communities, we must stay alert and not let our guard down. There is a tendency to take force protection for granted, particularly when you are otherwise focused on the difficult task of moving or settling in. Don't be caught off guard, and don't take the threat in the Benelux for granted. We live in a zone where there is a potential for terrorist activity around us, and move freely about, taking advantage of the laws which permit ease of travel from one country to another. The threat is real. Please don't lose sight of it.

Safeguard your identification documents with care. You have been advised concerning the increasing threat of identity theft. Besides that, we have the real problem in that far too many of you lose your identification cards through neglect or care-

lessness. If these documents which form the basis of entry into our installations and our privileges fall into the wrong hands, we are all at risk. Please look at your ID card as a potential key to a terrorist and be extra careful when you use it. Keep it in the same place, safeguard it, and follow the same procedures in using and securing it. Don't allow carelessness to make you and your neighbor a victim.

The risk of property crime is real, particularly for those of you who live in isolated houses. Break-ins are far too common an occurrence in the Benelux. You must follow the procedures that are commonly taught to protect your valuables while you are inside your house or away from it. Do not make it apparent that you are not home. Do lock your doors and windows without fail. Home

alarms are worth the investment. Ask your landlord to consider them, if you do not have one. If you live around other members of the community, please watch out for them. Report any suspicious activity that might be a thief or a terrorist to law enforcement. Your eyes and ears prevent crime.

Next issue we will talk in detail about Memorial Day at the end of this month. For now, I ask you to seriously consider blocking that time on your calendar to make it a point to represent the United States in the several Memorial Day activities that weekend, to remember the fallen, and to honor the purpose of the holiday. There are once in a lifetime memories to be made here. Please also make it a point to understand General McKiernan's article on volunteerism in this issue. Our communities don't run properly without a lot of volunteers, and we do have deployed servicemembers families among us to care for.

McKiernan Sends #9-06

Volunteers needed to help Soldier families

1. Many of our Soldiers are deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism.

Their absence is often stressful for their loved ones, and several families have asked for help.

2. Many organizations—including Army Community Service, chapels, Child and Youth Services, DoDDS schools, and youth service organizations—are available to support families of deployed Soldiers.



General David D. McKiernan
CINC USAREUR

These organizations, however, need volunteers to meet the increasing number of requests for assistance.

3. I ask all Soldiers in the European theater to help the families of deployed Soldiers by volunteering their time and assistance.

Every Soldier can help, whether by coaching a youth sports team, serving as a youth service organization leader, running an errand for an overburdened neighbor, or providing transportation for a family in need.

4. In addition to the service it provides to those in need, volunteerism provides tremendous personal satisfaction to the volunteer.

By sharing our time and skills with others, we become part of something

bigger than ourselves. We also learn a lot and grow from the experience. Because of this, our support, energy, and dedication can make a difference in someone's life as well as our own.

5. Volunteerism is an investment in our communities and the people who live in them.

Do something positive for yourself and your community—volunteer! Please visit your Army Volunteer Corps coordinator for more details.

DAVID D. McKIERNAN
General, USA
Commanding

Memorial Day Celebrations ... U.S. Forces fallen, but not forgotten

Ardennes Cemetery at Neuville-en-Condroz

Ceremony: May 27 at 10 a.m.

The Ardennes cemetery is the last resting place for 5,329 American military, many of whom died in the Battle of the Bulge.

Along the outside of the memorial, inscribed on granite slabs, are the names of 462 American Missing who gave their lives in the service of their country, but whose remains were never recovered or identified.

Soldiers of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux and tenant units will be participating.

Luxembourg American Cemetery

Ceremony: May 27 at 2 p.m.

The World War II Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial lies just within the limits of Luxembourg City and is located in a beautiful wooded area.

The names of 371 Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country and lie in unknown graves are inscribed on the pythons.

The city of Luxembourg served as headquarters

for General George S. Patton's U.S. Third Army. General Patton is buried at the Luxembourg American Cemetery.

Sloping downhill from the memorial is the burial area containing 5,076 American dead, many of whom gave their lives in the "Battle of the Bulge" and in the advance to the Rhine River.

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery

Ceremony: May 27 at 4 p.m.

The World War II Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery is the final resting place for 7,992 American military dead, most of whom gave their lives during the advance of the American Armed Forces into Germany during World War II.

On the rectangular piers of the colonnade are inscribed the names of 450 Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country but whose remains were never recovered or identified. Soldiers of the USAG Benelux and tenant units will be participating.

Flanders Field Cemetery at Waregem

Ceremony: May 28 at 3 p.m.

At this peaceful location rest 368 American military, most of whom gave their lives in liberating Belgium in World War I.

On the chapel's side walls are inscribed the names of 43 of the missing in action who gave their lives in the service of their country, but whose remains were never recovered or identified.

Soldiers of the USAG Benelux and tenant units will be participating.

Netherlands American cemetery at Margraten

Ceremony: May 28 at 3 p.m.

The World War II Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial is the only cemetery in The Netherlands and is located near the city of Maastricht.

The walls on either side of the Court of Honor contain the names of 1,723 American missing who gave their lives in the service of their country and who rest in unknown graves. Beyond the chapel rest 8,301 American dead, most of whom lost their lives nearby.

Soldiers of the USAG Schinnen will be participating in the Memorial Day ceremony.

Riding motorcycles safely in groups



Here are some tips to help ensure a safe group motorcycle ride:

Hold a riders' meeting to discuss the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals. Assign a lead and sweep (tail) rider.

Keep a manageable sized group, ideally five to seven riders. If necessary, break the group into smaller subgroups, each with a lead and sweep rider.

Ride prepared. At least one rider

in each group should pack a cell phone, first-aid kit, and full tool kit.

Ride in a staggered formation with enough maneuvering space between motorcycles. A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering/leaving highways. Avoid side-by-side formations.

Note: Information obtained from the *Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) website at www.msf-usa.org.*

Tips help put summer travel in gear

USAG Benelux Transportation Office

Are you ready for traveling in Europe this summer?

Here is a list of six pertinent questions to help you to get ready for a safe trip this coming summer.

Question 1:

Is your identification card valid?

Your SHAPE ID card must be valid at all times. Everyone should check their green SHAPE ID card for validity. Dependents and civilians should check their Belgian ID card for validity.

For SHAPE ID card information, contact the SHAPE Registration Office at DSN 423-5320. For Belgian ID card information, contact the SHAPE Federal Police at DSN 423-5165.

Question 2:

Is your driver's license valid?

Remember that your blue SHAPE license is valid for operation of motor vehicles in Belgium only. Should you wish to travel through Europe this summer, make sure to obtain the proper license. Soldiers must obtain an inter-

national license, versus dependents and civilians who may obtain either an international or a Belgian license.

Both international and Belgian licenses can be obtained by visiting your Driver's Testing Station with a statement of residence obtained at the SHAPE Federal Police, Bldg 210, two pictures ID size, €16, SHAPE ID and current driver's license.

Note: for those residing in Jurbise and Ath, an extra Town Hall fee of €10 and those residing in Brugelette an extra €6 will be requested.

Question 3:

Is your international insurance certificate (green card) valid?

All motor vehicles must be covered by liability insurance at minimum in case of any incident/accident. The green card must be in the vehicle at all times.

Question 4:

Is your vehicle registration valid?

All motor vehicles must be registered prior to operation. Make sure yours is

current and is placed in your vehicle. Call the SHAPE Registration office for more information at DSN 423-5147.

Question 5:

Is your Control Technique certificate valid?

All vehicles four years and older must pass a technical inspection and obtain a "Certificat de Visite." Visit the closest Control Technique Automobile Inspection Station for more information.

Question 6:

If you have a European specification vehicle, is your certificate of conformity valid?

The certificate must be placed in the vehicle at all times. Contact the manufacturer for a conformity certificate.

Additional questions may be directed to the Drivers Testing Station, Bldg. 220, SHAPE, at DSN 366-6443 or 6243.

License...Continued from page 1

either a license from their host nation or an international driver's license," said Marilyn Brulez, manager of the drivers testing station for the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux. "International driver's license are part of an international agreement and will be honored by most European Union countries."

There is an advantage to getting a Belgian drivers license. International driver's licenses are valid for three years while a Belgian driver's license doesn't expire.

USAG Benelux drivers testing station on SHAPE processes local requests for both the international and host nation drivers licenses.

According to Brulez, no additional testing is required to get either license. "The information on the SHAPE license is transferred from the SHAPE license to the Belgian or international driver's license."

If a driver is licensed to ride a motorcycle and drive an automobile, they will receive an international or Belgian license to operate both types of vehicles when they receive their new license.

In Brussels, the USAG Benelux has a satellite drivers testing office which can process either the International or Belgian drivers license requests.

For those Soldiers, DoD civilians

and their family members stationed in the Chièvres Garrison footprint that includes Caserne Daumerie, Chièvres Air Base or SHAPE, contact the USAG Benelux drivers testing station located on SHAPE in Bldg. 220 or call DSN 366-6603 to obtain a Belgian or international driver's license.

Those needing to acquire an international drivers license in The Netherlands may do so at an ANWB Tourist Office by presenting: (a) A valid U.S. HQ JFC AFNORTH, or USAFE Driving Permit (b) 1(one) Dutch size passport picture (c) A fee of 13 Euro

The international driver license is valid for 1 year from the date of issue or expiration of the U.S., HQ JFC AFNORTH or USAFE Driver License, whichever comes first and is only valid outside The Netherlands.

Drivers may also obtain a Dutch drivers license valid for 10 years at a cost of approximately 60 euros. For more information contact 360-7433.

Countries may change their rules at short notice, Lorenzini said, so "having the international license is really the safe way to go."

Additionally, there is more information available from the U.S. Department of State website at heep://travel.statelgov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1179.html.

About the

Meteor-Heraut

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Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Submit articles in plain text and separate photographic files, but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor-Heraut*.

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Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

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Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy is due at noon

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
May 8	May 19	June 5	June 16	July 17	July 28	Aug 14	Aug. 25
May 22	June 2	July 3	July 14	July 31	Aug. 11	Aug 28	Sept. 1



Chièvres Garrison...serving SHAPE/Chièvres communities

Community Notes

Chièvres/SHAPE hosts Town Hall meeting

Chièvres Garrison and the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux staff will host its quarterly Town Hall meeting for the Chièvres/SHAPE community May 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Hotel Maisières.

Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

According to the Chièvres Garrison Commander Lt. Col. John G. Romero, This meeting provides a venue for the community to voice its opinion or to address questions to garrison leaders.

Key members of the garrison leadership will be available to answer questions. Additionally, questions and answers will be available on the USAG Benelux website www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil.

When: May 24, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Hotel Maisières

Some concerns expressed by the community at the last Town Hall meeting include:

Question: In the summer, college students need to take the shuttle bus to get to their summer jobs. Is it possible to place the shuttle bus schedule on the website for anyone who needs it? • **Response:** The shuttle bus schedule is not on the website due to security reasons. Each bus stop has a schedule posted, and schedule are available at the Hotel Maisières desk. We also include a copy in each newcomers Welcome Package. If the schedule is not posted at one of the stops, please call the program manager at DSN: 361-6571.

Question: Is it possible to get another eating establishment like Popeye's in this community? • **Response:** We do not have a community large enough to support an additional eating establishment as an analysis based on cost and population showed. We also have a problem with staffing; we can't keep Burger King staffed let alone another eatery. We look forward to the Subway opening in the near future.

If you have any questions or concerns which you would like to address in advance drop them off at the Plans, Integration and Analysis Office, Bldg. 30, Caserne Daumerie or email your questions to paio@benelux.army.mil.

Additionally, those interested can go to the Chièvres Garrison website at <http://www.garrisonchievres.eur.army.mil> to find previous Town Hall quick read items and to submit questions.



PHOTO: 1st Sgt. Michael Roth

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux conduct Military Operations in Urban Terrain training April 27, at Camp Roi Albert in Marche-en-Famenne, Belgium. The training is the second time Benelux Soldiers have partnered with the Belgian military to use the host nation's training facility.

SHAPE CYS Extravaganza honored

By J.D. Hardesty

Meteor-Heraut Editor

The US Army Garrison Benelux received the gold level marketing and communications award for its "Character Counts" program as part of its "Lights On After School" campaign from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Children ages six to 18 from the 26 SHAPE member and 40 nonmember nations are eligible to participate in the programs.

The Chièvres Garrison/SHAPE Child and Youth Services Extravaganza was the only Department of Defense entity to win among 4,000 clubs worldwide.

They will receive an award and \$1,000 contribution for the Chièvres Garrison CYS programs as a "result of its outstanding success in promoting their three-activity "Character Counts" Extravaganza Oct. 2005 in which more than 300 guests attended programs at the Child Development Center, Student Age Services and Youth Services.

Boys and Girls Clubs of America are the largest official partner of CYS programs and development in the Department of Defense.

This effort was planned, managed, and executed by the CYS program management team comprised of Diedra Holmes, the CDC Director, Lisa McCune, acting director of the School Age Services program, and Tasja Sterling, the acting director of Youth Services, led by Barbara Troxell, the Outreach Services director.



PHOTO: Courtesy SHAPE Children and Youth Services

SHAPE youth participate in the Children and Youth Services "Character Counts" Extravaganza in October. U.S. Army Garrison Benelux supported program received the Boys and Girls Clubs of America gold level award Saturday and a \$1,000 contribution to CYS programs.

Troxell submitted a 15-page booklet highlighting such activities as music, dance, Tae-kwon-do demonstration, food and games, though all programs supported the "six pillars of character" - trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

According to Troxell, the submitted booklet showcasing the Boys and Girls Clubs program was reviewed by the judges for "thoroughness of planning, effective use of research, quality of presentation and innovation of ideas and techniques."

Subway reopens

The Subway located in the PXtra on Chièvres Air Base reopened for business May 3 after being closed for more than six months.

The franchise is under new management.

USAG Schinnen...serving the tri-border community

*Liberation Day - The Netherlands***‘Lest We Forget’****Commentary**

By Rita Hoefnagels

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

An unfamiliar sound woke me from a pleasant dream, and for a moment I didn't know where I was. Thank goodness I was in my bed in my own room at my parent's house and that haunting that woke me was coming from the British War Cemetery right across the street.

Every year on May 5th, Liberation Day in the Netherlands, a British Soldier would come to the cemetery and sound reveille at 8 a.m. in the morning on his bagpipes. Now, as a teenager, after a night out, that to me, was a very rude awakening.

So, I got up and went down to complain to my parents. But they weren't sympathetic at all. My dad looked at me and said: "Think of why this is done." I have to admit that after a few minutes thinking, I blushed and sat down. My dad was right. It was because of men like the British Soldier who found their last resting place in the cemetery across from our house that I live in freedom. Some of those men were only teenagers when they died far away from home and their loved ones. I had no reason at all to complain.

Unlike other countries, the Netherlands sets aside two days to commemorate the Second World War and celebrate the country's liberation from five years of occupation. May 4, Remembrance Day, is a day of solemn commemoration while May 5, Liberation Day, is a day of fun and joy.

World War II left an indelible mark on the Dutch, who had remained neutral in the First World War. Though memories are gradually fading, however, they continue to occupy thoughts and conversations and remain a constant reminder of the fragility of civilization and democracy.

Germany invaded the Netherlands in May 1940. The number of people still alive who lived through the war has obviously declined. But most Dutch, young and old, are still aware of the years of occupation, the persecution of Jews, Roma, Sinti and other minority communities in our society, and the destruction of Dutch towns and villages.

It took the Allied forces almost a year, September 1944-August 15, 1945, to liberate all the territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Actually, August 15, 1945 is the date on which Japan capitulated and freedom was restored to the then Dutch East Indies (now the Republic of Indonesia). Therefore different parts of the country celebrate their liberation at different times of the year.

The two days are a unique tradition and for many people in the Netherlands



PHOTO: File

Capt. Jon Beck, personnel officer at U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, lays a wreath during Operation Market Garden Liberations Day ceremony last year to honor and those fallen in the struggle for freedom during World War II.

they are very important. They give us a chance to pause and reflect on values and ideals of freedom, democracy and human rights.

Since the end of the WWII, the Dutch have observed May 4 as a day to honor the victims of war. Unlike most countries, the Netherlands does not mark this occasion with large military parades. No, people all over the country gather at war memorials in their own community and at the stroke of eight in the evening the entire country observes a two-minute silence to commemorate the civilians and military that lost their lives during the war.

A national ceremony is held in Amsterdam, with a memorial service in the historic Nieuwe Kerk at Dam Square. The ceremony is attended by Her Majesty the Queen, members of parliament and people from more than 100 organizations representing the different groups affected by the war. After the two minutes of silence, wreaths are laid at the foot of the national monument at Dam Square. The ceremony is broadcasted live on radio and television so millions of people can take part in this solemn event.

May 4 is a tribute to all Dutch victims of war. Special honor is paid to civilians and to members of the armed forces who fell in the Second World War, and to all Dutch nationals who lost their lives since

in other wars or peace operations.

The closure of the Remembrance Day ceremony is also the start of the Liberation Day festivities which commemorate Germany's capitulation on May 5, 1945. War veterans gather in Wageningen, where the historic documents were signed in Hotel "De Wereld", and there is a parade through the city. May 5 is a national holiday on which the solemnity of Remembrance Day gives way to celebrations. (The only other national holiday in the Netherlands is the queen's official birthday, celebrated on April 30.)

Special Liberation Day events are organized all over the country. The Dutch government has established the National May 4th and 5th Committee in which four government committees are represented. The committee is responsible for organizing the Remembrance Day memorial service and wreath-laying and it coordinates 13 liberation festivals (one in every province). Many national and international bands participate and the majority of festivals include a fair/market as well. They all start around noon and are free of entrance.

May 5 Festivals

- Amsterdam at Museumplein
- Haarlem (province North Holland) at Vlooienveld in Haarlemmerhout (South of Center)
- Rotterdam (province South Holland) at field adjacent to Erasmus

Bridge

- Assen (province Drenthe) in center
- Almere (province Flevoland) at Grote Markt in center
- Leeuwarden (province Friesland) at Arendstuin, Prinsentuin and several other locations in the center
- Wageningen (province Gelderland) in the center
- Groningen (province Groningen) at Stadspark
- Roermond (province Limburg) at Market in center
- Den Bosch (province Noord-Brabant) at Parade
- Zwolle (province Overijssel) at Park de Wezenlanden
- Utrecht (province Utrecht) at Park Transwijk
- Vlissingen (province Zeeland) in center

Different generations obviously have different perceptions of the WWII and the remembrance and liberation ceremonies. People who lived through the war have personal memories of their experience, whereas later generations can only rely on history books and other accounts.

Whenever we asked about the war my parents would tell us and not hold back anything. In April of 1940, my Dad, 19 years old, was, as so many other young men at that time, called to arms to defend his country. He was located in Rotterdam where he experienced the gruesome bombing of the town. It was a terrible and traumatic experience that he never wanted to say much about it.

He did tell me, though, that the Germans systematically bombed the town. They started in the center and spread to the outskirts. And my Dad was right in the middle of it. At the moment the Netherlands surrendered and a cease fire was given, debris was scattering all around him. Many of his comrades died in the bombings. Those who survived, my Dad included, were taken prison and transported to a camp in the middle of the Netherlands. But he was lucky and survived in one piece.

I could tell a lot more stories about my family's experiences during the war, but the point I'm trying to make is that for my family, Remembrance Day and Liberation Day were and still are very important.

The events organized to commemorate the war center on themes relevant today to people of all ages and backgrounds. Over the past years, Liberation Day has become a day on which the country unites to reflect on freedom and democracy. In marking the Netherlands' liberation from oppression we celebrate the freedom we enjoy today. Unlike most countries, the Netherlands draws inspiration from this dark period in history to focus on the present and the future. That's what makes these two days so special and important.

(The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided excerpts for the article.)

**USAG Brussels...serving the tri-mission community**

Club Beyond's helping hands reach Slovakia

By Thad Moyseowicz*USAG Brussels Public Affairs Officer*

The Brussels chapter of Club Beyond recently concluded its service project in the small town of Liptovsky Mikulas, in the Tatra foothills of Slovakia.

Brussels Club Beyond Director Pam Mobley served as site leader for a construction and renewal project held at a Slovak school.

In addition to 20 Brussels teens, youth from Club Beyond branches at Camp Darby and the Naval Air Station Sigonella worked at the Brussels site.

Club Beyond (also known as Military Community Youth Ministries, its "official" title) is a civilian entity contracted by the Army's Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-Euro), and answerable to the local base's chaplaincy.

There are numerous branches throughout IMA-Euro and in other services' bases. "Club Beyond does three things," explains Mobley. "First, it provides an ecumenical place for middle and high schoolers to come together and "hang" once per week outside of organized school or other base activities. Second, we sponsor Europe-wide service projects for our members. Third, we sponsor a popular summer beach week at Camp Darby in Italy."

An idea as to the Europe-wide impact of Club Beyond can be gauged by the fact that some 700 persons (about 500 youth, and 200 adult volunteers) participated in this April's service projects in a total of 12 different sites.

Mobley served as the site leader for the Liptovsky Mikulas project, whose core was the building of an outdoor classroom for the town's Middle School. A massive, weather-resistant wooden table with equally massive benches facing it in amphitheater fashion was planned.

"This is the second year in a row we've done a project for this particular school," explains Mobley. "Last year we built a playground. We're pleased to have been able to continue our relationship with the school."

It was a given that construction work had to be done to professional standards.

"We were all able and willing to provide our manual labor," says Brussels teen John Kilroy, "but we needed a real pro to direct us."

This technical direction and supervision was provided by adult volunteer Joe Jenkins, a professional builder in his native Virginia and a longtime friend whom Mobley had once mentored and a veteran of other mission trips. Mobley recruited Jenkins on fairly short notice to make the long trip from Virginia to Slovakia. Jenkins, according to Kilroy, was "awesome. Whether it was mixing or pouring cement, or sawing wood, or leveling, Joe taught us the "right way. When I saw the finished project and how good it looked, I



PHOTO: Courtesy Club Beyond

Brussels Club Beyond youth pose before digging in to build an outdoor "amphitheater" classroom for middle schoolers in the town of Liptovsky Mikulas, located in the Tatra foothills of Slovakia. Europe-wide, the organization has approximately 500 youth and 200 adults participating in projects at 12 different sites.

couldn't believe I'd had a hand in building it."

Mobley agrees, "Joe provided the skills and mentoring and direction to our gang of teens that resulted in a thoroughly professional outdoor classroom. They deserve to feel good about what they built."

Building the outdoor classroom was the core of the service project, but that was not all.

Mobley explains, "A key aspect of our Club Beyond service projects is that our members have meaningful interactions with the people on whose behalf they're working." To that end, the Club Beyond youth also participated in teaching both English as a second language (ESL) and religious education courses to their Slovak contemporaries.

Finally, there was also plenty of contact between the two groups through the universal language of organized sports activities.

Brussels teen Christine Exner enjoyed being able to participate in each activity.

"I dug holes, taught ESL, taught Bible school, and played volleyball with the Slovak kids." She goes on, "It was a really amazing, eye-opening experience. I've lived overseas in Japan and Belgium, but this experience really helped me break through cultural barriers in a way I'd never felt before." Asked if she would do

it again, Exner replies, "Absolutely. I learned what it truly means to give of one's self. I'm looking forward to next year's project!"

Constructing something from scratch for the benefit of those less fortunate, giving freely of oneself, teaching and mentoring foreign youth and playing sports with them, growing spiritually - were there any other benefits that accrued to the Club Beyond participants in this service project? "That's easy to answer," says Mobley. "Yes, our kids each realized individual benefits. But they learned that these individual benefits were owed to their active fellowship with each other."

Exner agrees. "Our site team was absolutely brilliant," she says. "We came from three different locations- Brussels, Livorno and Sigonella. But we quickly learned to work together, and 'strangers' rapidly turned into 'friends.'"

"This is for and about our teens," says Mobley, "but they'll be the first to thank the adult volunteers who accompanied them and gave of their time. The active duty Army, Air Force and Navy were represented. In addition to Joe Jenkins, representatives from Brussels American School and military spouses also participated. All provided the leadership necessary to make this a real win for our youth."

U.S. Mission to NATO Defense Operations Director steps down

By Thad Moyseowicz*USAG Brussels Public Affairs Officer*

An era ended last week when Kenneth Huffman stepped down as director of the U.S. Mission to NATO's Defense Operations Division.

Huffman, a member of the Department of the Army's senior executive service, arrived in Brussels at the U.S. Mission in 1987 as a civil servant following a career as a Navy officer and a brief foray into the private sector.

By 1992, he had worked his way up to being the Missions Defense Operations director.

The Secretary of Defense Representative, Europe/U.S. Mission Defense Advisor, Ambassador Evan Galbraith, conferred upon Huffman the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, the Army's highest civilian award at a ceremony held on April 24th.

Galbraith praised Huffman's record of "remarkable achievements" for the nation in the course of a 19-year career at the U.S. Mission.

Ambassador Victoria Nuland, the U.S. Permanent Representative to the NATO Alliance, seconded Galbraith's comments and offered

See Huffman, Page 7

AAFES**Computer battery packs recalled**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced Hewlett-Packard is voluntarily recalling 15,700 HP and Compaq Notebook computer lithium ion rechargeable battery packs manufactured in China.

According to an Army Air Force Exchange Service news release, 4,100 battery packs were sold last year.

Hewlett-Packard had received reports an internal short may cause battery cells to overheat, melt or char the plastic case, posing a burn and fire hazard. The recalled batteries have bar code labels starting with L3.

Consumers are encouraged to stop using the "L3" coded batteries immediately and contact Hewlett-Packard to determine if the specific battery is one of the ones being recalled and if it is, receive a free replacement battery.

For additional information, visit the HP Battery Replacement program Web site at www.hp.com/support/BatteryReplacement or contact HP at (888) 202-4320 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday.

FRG website moves to protect families

USAREUR Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany - Protecting personal information is vital to the security of Soldiers serving down range.

U.S. Army, Europe has implemented a policy requiring its family readiness groups to move their .com websites

Benelux Briefs**Month of the Military Child*****Presentations teach life skills***

PHOTO: Courtesy SHAPE Schools

M.L. Joris, a physical therapist at the SHAPE Healthcare Facility, talked to over 500 SHAPE American School students about a wide range of things related to sports injuries and her profession during Health and Wellness Takeover Day April 25 at the school.

The event celebrates the Month of the Military Child with life skills presentations specifically for the students with topics ranging from Aerobics, Anger Management, Fire Safety, Ask a Doctor, Dealing with Depression, Legal Issues for Teens in Belgium, and Real Life Alcohol Knowledge.

The event was sponsored by the school liaison, the health promotions coordinator, the adolescent substance abuse counselor, the family advocacy program director and the school nurse.



under the more secure Army Knowledge Online or the virtual FRG website to provide better information security to protect Soldiers and families.

The policy states all FRG Web sites in USAREUR must move to either AKO or vFRG by June 1.

"Family readiness group Web sites provide a place for families to find support and assistance online," said Gen. David D. McKiernan, USAREUR commanding general. "These Web sites not only provide a means for families to communicate with the chain of command, they provide access to Army re-

sources and offer a better understanding of military life for both immediate and extended family members."

The policy is to ensure FRG Web sites do not provide information that may give the enemy an advantage, endanger Soldiers or compromise missions.

VA only veterans benefits resource

USAREUR Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany - The Department of Veteran's Affairs is responsible for administering a wide range of programs available to the nation's veter-

ans including compensation and pension benefits, health care, home loan guarantees, vocational rehabilitation and employment, education, life insurance and burial benefits.

Veterans seeking assistance must be cautious of companies that appear to offer similar programs.

As a nonprofit organization, the VA will not ask you to buy anything and will not ask for personal information.

To inquire about any organization that alleges VA affiliation, contact the VA overseas military services coordinator at DSN 483-6007 or commercial +49-631-411-6007, or visit the official VA website at www.va.gov.

DoDDS-Europe students must preregister

DoDDS-E Public Affairs

WIESBADEN, Germany -

Department of Defense Dependents Schools across Europe have started reregistering and preregistering students for school year 2006-2007.

Sponsors of children new to the DoDDS-E system must register their children for the year ahead. Sponsors of students currently attending DoDDS-E schools must reregister their children.

Sponsors can preregister children by accessing the DoDDS-E website at <http://www.eu.dodea.edu> and clicking on the registration link. Additional information is available at the site as well.

Huffman...Continued from page 6

PHOTO: Courtesy Brussels Public Affairs Office

Ken Huffman, U.S. Mission to NATO Defense Operations Division Director (left) receives the NATO flag from U.S. NATO Ambassador Victoria Nuland and Secretary of Defense Representative, Europe/U.S. Mission Defense Advisor, Ambassador Evan Galbraith. Huffman also received the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service April 24, the Army's highest civilian award for his 19-year career at the U.S. Mission.

her observations on Huffman from her own two tours at U.S. NATO.

"Ken Huffman came to NATO when it had nearly 50 years' experience as a garrison force whose highest end was never to be used. Within four years of Ken's arrival, the Cold War had ended, and NATO was faced with the need to either reinvent itself or become hopelessly irrelevant." Nuland continues: "NATO Headquarters was indeed fortunate to have so experienced a defense diplomat and operations expert resident at the U.S. Mission."

By 1992, the Alliance had agreed to make itself available, when appropriately requested, to conduct peacekeeping operations outside the boundaries of the member nations. This marked a huge change from its heretofore purely "defensive" character. During the early 1990s, with the implosion of Yugoslavia, NATO, for the first time, had to employ the military might

it had at its disposal. "Ken," says Nuland, "was instrumental in patiently teaching us how this could be done."

She thanked Huffman for his personal friendship and help when she was a "green" Deputy Chief of Mission at US NATO in 2001.

Huffman, taking the floor, thanked Nuland and Galbraith for their praise, but was quick to share the credit with several years' worth of colleagues.

"I can't mention everybody, because we'd be here all day, plus I'd run the risk of forgetting somebody. But look at NATO today: Look what it's done in the Balkans. Look at the Alliance's response to 9/11," he said. "Look at its growing presence in Afghanistan, its training mission in Iraq, its efforts in Pakistan in support of earthquake relief. Look at all these accomplishments. No question, NATO is involved in operations in a way I'd never imagined possible when I first arrived in 1987."



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